

LARRY

Mr. Hunter A. Fitzgerald, CEA/National

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Richard N. Costantino, CEA/South

*Richard N. Costantino*

Khammouane Refugee Students

Reference: UR Memo of August 26th.

I checked with the PSI/Khammouane, ORA and the CDAA/Thakhek pertaining to your comment about the total of 1,966 refugees on rolls. The PSI says that his figures are accurate because he takes his information from the teachers of the classrooms where refugees are taught. The CDAA says that the figure is not too high since various reasons are involved:

- 1) There are three types of refugees - those receiving 100% support; those receiving partial support and receive only PL 480 supplies; and those resettled refugees which receive a minimum amount of supplies. According to the CDAA and ORA the second group is not counted in statistics and most of those in the third group also. This means that the total is really much higher.
- 2) The refugee report is made weekly on Wednesdays and last week 2,280 refugees were reported on the rolls. This will again account for a higher number of children in schools.
- 3) Both ORA and CDAA explained that it is impossible to give a more accurate report of refugees than that given by PSI/Khammouane since his questionnaire sent to all schools shows an accurate listing of children receiving daily rice quotas.
- 4) Many of the children in Lao government schools are refugees but cannot attend refugee schools since there are not enough refugee schools. This past week the CDAA had an activity plan approved by Vientiane for the construction of additional schools in Savannakhet as follows:

4 rooms at That Ing Heng  
3 rooms at Nong Kom  
6 rooms at Seno Camp (not Refugee Village)

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13 rooms total